

Ohio Bible Fellowship

Winter Conference

January 12-13, 2018

Message Three

The Purifying Hope

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:29–34 (ESV)

²⁹ Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? ³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ³³ Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

Introduction: In this text, Paul lays out a blunt argument that questions why anyone would bother serving Christ if there is no hope of resurrection. At the conclusion of the paragraph, he challenges the readers to distance themselves from anyone who teaches such falsehood. He also calls them out for their sinful behavior, commanding them to get serious about their Christianity. The implied message is that our hope of resurrection and life in a new creation in the presence of Christ must change the way we live right now.

Today’s take-home truth: Since Christ has risen, Christians have a past (redemption) and future (resurrection), so let’s live like it!

I. If this [cf. 20-28] is not true, public commitment has no value . . . 29

A. Three debated terms in a puzzling verse

B. One more proposal among many

II. and sacrificial service makes no sense. 30-32

A. Every hard-fought gain means nothing . . . 30-31

B. and every sacrifice is absurd. 32

III. But since this is true, it is time to live like it. 33-34

A. Here is what you must do: 33-34a

1. Stop being deceived by those who will ruin you. 33

2. Stop thinking like the world. 34a

3. Stop sinning. 34b

B. And here is why: There is no excuse for shameful ignorance of God! 34c